

## Claims

- [c1] 1) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising;  
a housing;  
a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; and  
a spring-loaded cover integral with said housing, wherein said cover has a protective position and an engaged position, such that when said cover is in said protective position, said connector is covered by said cover, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said cover.
- [c2] 2) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.
- [c3] 3) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c4] 4) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.
- [c5] 5) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said external computer device is a flash RAM drive.
- [c6] 6) The external computer device of claim 1, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:  
a) a wireless adapter;  
b) a barcode scanner;  
c) a RF transceiver;  
d) an identification interface;  
e) an electronic voice recorder;  
f) a music jukebox; and  
g) a geo-location system.
- [c7] 7) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising: a) a housing; b) memory contained within said housing; c) a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; d) a retractable cover including a front barrier protector, integral with said housing, wherein said cover has a protective position and an engaged position, such that when said cover is in said

protective position, said connector is covered by said cover, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said cover.

- [c8] 8) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.
- [c9] 9) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c10] 10) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said memory is a mass storage device.
- [c11] 11) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said memory is a flash RAM.
- [c12] *AI* 12) The external computer device of claim 7, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:
- a) a wireless adapter;
  - b) a barcode scanner;
  - c) a RF transceiver;
  - d) an identification interface;
  - e) an electronic voice recorder;
  - f) a music jukebox; and
  - g) a geo-location system.
- [c13] 13) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising;
- a housing;
  - a standardized connector for connecting to a computer; and
  - an inner sleeve body integral with said housing, wherein said inner sleeve has a protective position and an engaged position, such that when said inner sleeve is in said protective position, said connector is covered by said inner sleeve, and when said cover is in said engaged position said connector is exposed from said inner sleeve.
- [c14] 14) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.

- [c15] 15) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c16] 16) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.
- [c17] 17) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.
- [c18] 18) The external computer device of claim 13, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:
- h)a wireless adapter;
  - i)a barcode scanner;
  - j)a RF transceiver;
  - k)an identification interface;
  - l)an electronic voice recorder;
  - m)a music jukebox; and
  - n)a geo-location system.
- [c19] 19) An external computer device with a standard interface comprising:
- a housing; and
  - a standardized connector for connecting to a computer, wherein said connector is disposed on a slideable carriage, such that it is retractable within said housing.
- [c20] 20) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.
- [c21] 21) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c22] 22) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.
- [c23] 23) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.

- [c24] 24) The external computer device of claim 19, wherein said external computer device is selected from the list consisting of at least one of the following:
- a) a wireless adapter;
  - b) a barcode scanner;
  - c) a RF transceiver;
  - d) an identification interface;
  - e) an electronic voice recorder;
  - f) a music jukebox; and
  - g) a geo-location system.
- [c25] 25) An external computer device comprising a standardized connector in communication with said external device for connecting to a computer, wherein said standardized connector is in a long-throw configuration.
- AI* [c26] 26) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said standardized connector comprises a universal serial bus.
- [c27] 27) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said standardized connector comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c28] 28) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said external computer device is a mass storage memory device.
- [c29] 29) The external computer device of claim 25, wherein said external computer device is a flash ram drive.
- [c30] 30) A port extender comprising;
- a housing;
  - a male USB connector; and
  - a female USB connector, wherein said male USB connector and said female USB connector are contained within said housing.
- [c31] 31) The port extender of claim 31, wherein said housing consists of a rigid material.